



Burrell Hi-Lites

B U R R E L L S D

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CIA bombing leaves
Americans questioning
security overseas
Melanie Weiland
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, December 30, a suicide bomber attacked a CIA base in Khost, Afghanistan. Humam Khalil Abu-Mulal al-Balawi, the bomber, was recruited by Jordanian intelligence in order to infiltrate Taliban and al Qaeda. The Jordanian intelligence agency believed that al-Balawi would be a good source of information because of his previous association with Islamists. Many intelligence agencies must rely on any type of individual to gather information about future terrorist attacks because they are the only ones with the access to the information.

The attack killed seven CIA officers along with the base chief. It also injured six other intelligence officials, making it the deadliest day for an agency since the 1983 bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut. The security guards of the base did not closely search al-Balawi because the spy agencies labeled him as de-radicalized and saw him as a valuable informant with high-quality intelligence. Also, he relayed information about al Qaeda for months and no incident occurred. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it was a propaganda boost. Al-Balawi



was an Islamist blogger who took radical direct action for his country, hoping to inspire others. The death tolls among U.S. military forces have been the highest ever since the Afghanistan war began in October

Drug bust overpowers
Pittsburgh's dealers
By Gabby Grillo
News Editor

An undercover investigation has been going on for a year, and was headed by the Pittsburgh Police. Thirty-one people, mostly all from Braddock, were arrested in the end of the investigation and it was found that nearly three million dollars worth of cocaine had been smuggled from Mexico just to Pittsburgh and areas near there. However, this estimate does not include the amount of cocaine smuggled to the rest of the cities the Teflon Knights were supplying to. Alleged cocaine dealers out of a ring known as Teflon Knights were arrested for the obtaining, selling, and distribution of cocaine. Once in federal custody, it was found that the two men arrested were part of an international flow of drugs. The cocaine was obtained in Mexico, and after being smuggled to the United States, sold to drug dealers in Cincinnati, Ohio, as well as cities in Indiana, New York, and Pittsburgh. Of the thirty-one people arrested, two Bosnian men, Michael Lucerne of Overbrook and David Curran of Upper St. Clair were accused of smuggling the cocaine back to the U.S. Investigators said the Teflon Knights never expected to be caught, and that they had been operating in Pittsburgh for nearly a decade. The Pittsburgh Police hope that this drug bust will prevent future smuggling, distributing, and drug rings in the area.

Terror for Christmas
By Sam Barrett
Co-Business Manager

Northwest Airlines Flight 253 did not have a very merry Christmas. The passenger flight from Amsterdam, Netherlands to Detroit, Michigan, was shockingly attacked by an alleged Al Qaeda terrorist. The terrorist, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, attempted to set off a plastic explosive that was attached to his underwear. The airbus contained 279 passengers, eight flight attendants, and 3 pilots. Witnesses aboard the plane said the man went into the plane's bathroom for around 20 minutes and then went back to his seat, covering himself with a blanket. He used the blanket as cover to light the plastic explosive, composed of powder mixed with liquid acid. The explosive failed to ignite properly and did not explode but instead set the plane on fire. The other passengers and flight attendants noticed the man and took action. A certain passenger, Jasper Schuringa, tackled Abdulmutallab and attempted to put the fire out that started between his legs with his hands, severely burning them. Schuringa stated, "I pulled the object from him and tried to extinguish the fire with my hands and threw it away". Schuringa then dragged Abdulmutallab helplessly across the plane to the front, searched him for more explosives, and then handcuffed him. Abdulmutallab was said by Schuringa to be "Staring into nothing" during the entire ordeal.

The terrorist is a 23-year-old Nigerian man who is the son of one of the richest men in Africa, Alhaji Umaru Mutallab. Abdulmatallab is currently in a Federal Correction institution called Milan in Michigan.

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Burrell Hi-Lites

Burrell High School hires
assistant principal
By Alina Phillips
Editor-in-Chief

Many students at Burrell High School have probably realized that Burrell has a new assistant principal. In fact, he was the guidance counselor at Burrell since 2006. Mr. Croushore has been named the new assistant principal. Croushore has become the assistant principal because Mr. Roland has become the principal at Kiski Area High School. Croushore obtained his bachelor of science in psychology at Saint Vincent College, his counseling degree at the California University of Pennsylvania, and his certification of administration at the University of Pittsburgh. Croushore had previously been the guidance counselor at Elizabeth Forward in South Hills and at Duquesne High School and Middle School.

Croushore will not still be the guidance counselor at Burrell but stated, "They are in the process for hiring someone for the counselor position." Croushore also added that both he and Mrs. Oskin are "Available for anything guidance related." In addition, Croushore commented that he is always there to help students and if they need anything to stop into the office.

Croushore had an additional comment for students and stated, "I have felt since I have worked here that students are truly unaware of what they are capable of. Our students are some of the best and brightest in Pennsylvania and no student at Burrell has to settle for being average. Do your best and always try to achieve for greatness." The staff of Burrell Hi-Lites would like to congratulate Mr. Croushore on becoming the new assistant principal.

Burrell Hockey needs
fans
By Darren Myers
Photo Editor

For anyone who is confused Burrell does have a hockey team. They play their home games at the Valley Sports Complex. It is a merged team with Highlands, Valley, Penn Hills, and Mary Queen of Apostles. On Thursday January 14, 2010, Burrell played Fox Chapel. Fox Chapel started the game with three quick goals in the first period. One goal with 8:50 left, another with 6:58 left, and the final one with 6:09 left. With Burrell not playing up to standards and becoming frustrated, a tripping penalty was taken by senior captain, Ben Beal. Burrell failed to score in the first period but would not go down without a fight in the second. Burrell started off the period moving at a fast pace and making nice passes, not staying in their zone for that long. Burrell scored two goals to cut the lead down to one. The goals were scored by #14 Keisel and by #15 Beal. Burrell had eight shots in the second and gained momentum but with forty seconds left in the second, Fox Chapel scored, making the lead by two. Going into the third period, it was a back and forth game. Each team had opportunities, but Burrell capitalized on less than Fox Chapel. scored another goal which put Burrell away. Burrell put up a good fight, but that night just was not their night. Missed opportunities and given up chances hurt them that day. They have the talent to make it a good season so go support the Burrell hockey team.

Cure for the peanut allergy
By Katie Uzelac
Sports Editor

Every year, peanut allergies claim about half of the deaths from food allergies. Even the slightest exposure to peanuts can cause someone who is allergic to have a reaction. Depending on the severity of the person's allergies, reactions range from upset stomachs to throat closings. Unfortunately, there has been no cure found for the allergy, until March 2009.

Dr. Wesley Burks, chief of the division of pediatric allergy and immunology at Duke University Medical center, has helped to conduct research for the cure. During a meeting of American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, doctors stated that within the next three years, the cure for the allergy could be marketed to the public. While recently testing this new possible cure, 15 children had no symptoms after eating 15 peanuts, after being on the medication for ten months. However, more tests will need to be done before the FDA can approve the medication. Not only are these positive results coming from U.S clinics, but researchers in Britain are also having good results with finding a cure. Even though this cure will not be available for a few more years, it looks to be a promising medication. This will change the course of medicine. Since a cure has been found for the peanut allergy, who is to say that there will not be new cures for other allergies found in the near future? With the technology available today, almost anything is possible in the realm of science and medicine.



Hanna Carter, 5, receives the medication at Duke University.
Gary Broome/Associated Press

Offensive shirts wound
American Pride
By Adrienne Bracken
Co-copy editor

A group of nine Detroit students are facing trouble for wearing self-designed t-shirts depicting a caricature of the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Tower.



9/11 graphic on the shirts of the junior students.

The students, juniors at Dearborn High School, claim the shirts were worn to enforce the idea that, even in the face of tragedy, America as a whole will never collapse. Many parents and officials, however, disagree with the students and find the shirts distasteful and upsetting. The skepticism on behalf of the students comes from the fact that all of the students are Arab Americans in a school whose 1,700 student count is half Arab American.

Jennifer Browne, mother of one of the students in Dearborn High's junior class, theorized that the negative reactions also could come from the recently failed bombing attempt by a Muslim terrorist on Christmas Day. The terrorist's flight destination was Detroit.

Suspensions are not planned, though the students are still meeting with school officials to discuss the matter.

Sources:

Foxnews.com

ABCnews.com

Students make Choices for Future
By Alex Overly
Sports Editor

For many upper classman at Burrell High School, there is the choice between taking AP classes and dual enrolling into local colleges. Some students prefer the AP classes because they are offered at the school. The classes are taught by the teachers at the school and give the students individual attention, as well as furthering their knowledge and capabilities. For these classes at the end of the semester there is a state wide test that is taken. In order to receive college credits for the class, students must score at least a four or five on the test. Some colleges may accept a score of three and still give credit. But none the less students taking part in these courses will receive credits towards graduation. Another choice is to dual enroll in college courses offered at local colleges. In order to take part in these classes, students must have met the requirements given by the school as well as the college. There is an application process involved in signing up as well as an agreement with the school in order to take the chosen classes. Most of the courses are offered after the school day or seniors may be able to leave early on senior release and take the classes they wish too. In either case, the students benefit from a higher level of education and attain the college experience.

Christmas Article Cont.
Jasper Schuringa, who is being praised
Umar Farouk Abdul-matallab
as a hero for stopping the attack on the plane.

Haiti receives horrific shock
By Eric Sokol
Business Manager

With over thousands left homeless and over ten thousand killed, Haiti and the world are putting forth efforts to rebuild and replenish the city to get it working and functioning better than it has ever been before. The world must not only apply aid to those in need, but they must also rebuild entire cities. On Tuesday January 12, 2010 Haiti experienced one of its most tragic devastations, mother nature took her course and took an entire country by surprise and killed over thousands of innocent people. Haiti, a relatively small country is by no surprise also not very wealthy as a country. So once the information traveled across the world, human rights activists boarded plans, created organizations and even teamed up with major corporations such as Google to allow the public to take a part in the restoration of the country. With only six days of action, America alone has raised over 3 million dollars from only celebrities. Music artists are not to be left out. There is also word of a benefit concert to be organized soon with names such as Bono and Justin Timberlake already on the line up. With the celebrities taking action, the activists heading down to the city itself, one must wonder what they can do. Well the answer is simple; most companies have links for easy donations. To help the heart-wrenched Haitians, just go to a website and do your part.



Many rescuers such as these from France are doing their part to help return Haiti back to normal.
Courtesy BBC News

School protects students from bad weather conditions
By Christina Stoltz
Staff writer

Due to recent weather conditions, many schools have had two hour delays and cancellations. The purpose of two hour delays and cancellations is to keep the students safe from bad weather conditions. If the wind chill is negative then it would be unsafe for students to be standing outside at the bus stop. The bus drivers get a say in whether or not the weather conditions are safe for students and they help decide if school will have a two hour delay or a cancellation.

According to Mr. Boylan, Burrell High School principal, "We never want to place forty or fifty lives in a bus drivers hands with bad conditions."

Two hour delays are also based on other districts. Boylan commented, "We coordinate around other districts because we share busses for Votech." Students in the past used to get early dismissals but now they are not likely because of previous complaints from parents about their children being home alone while they are at work. If conditions are supposed to be bad all day, school would just be cancelled. If weather conditions are bad enough, the school can prevent students from going home because of safety reasons. In the past, Burrell had to keep elementary students from going home because of a flood. The schools main concern is the safety of the students.

Boylan mentioned that hospitals and other organizations don't operate on a two hour delay schedule and the reason that schools do is because schools work with kids and the school is responsible for the students'



To check for school delays or cancellations tune in to weather channels or